

January 19, 1972

General R. E. Cushman, Jr.
Commandant
United States Marine Corps

Dear General Cushman,

I am sending this note to amplify in slightly more formal fashion some sentiments previously conveyed in informal conversation. As were all of your Agency colleagues, I was delighted when you were chosen to be Commandant of the Marines. It is always gratifying to see someone who really deserves the honor advanced to the pinnacle of his chosen profession and doubly so when the individual in question is a respected personal friend. I only regret that the urgency of the many demands on your time, compounded by your bout with the flu, kept us from having the small, private wetting down ceremony we had hoped to hold for you in the back room before you assumed your new duties.

Despite our pleasure in seeing you become Commandant, however, you are and will be sorely missed here. Your post in the Agency was not an easy one. As you know (and like the Marines) we are a clannish crew. Coming initially as an outsider, you would probably have been justified in feeling some kinship with the ham in a sandwich -- slipped between a lifelong clansman as Director and other clansmen as subordinates. I can now say directly what I hope was obvious from our demeanor and deportment, namely that you became universally accepted as one of the tribe in record time. You handled a difficult job superlatively well. Only those of us who had the privilege and pleasure of working closely with you probably realize just how difficult some aspects of your assignment could have been and how well you discharged them. You became a real part of this Agency, contributed much to it, and are greatly missed by it.

I also want to thank you for the picture you so kindly sent me and, particularly, for the inscription you penned thereon. Both were greatly appreciated and, incidentally, gained me much face in the eyes of my older offspring, for which I also thank you. Having an acute aversion to what I call the Pat Coyne syndrome, I have never asked anyone for a picture and yours is the first one I have ever been sent -- a fact that makes it doubly welcome.

Again, congratulations on becoming the Corps new Commandant. As a citizen, it is comforting to know that the best component of our armed services is in such competent hands. All of your former colleagues wish you every success in your new incarnation. Both professionally and personally I greatly enjoyed our Agency association and though our professional paths have at least temporarily parted, I hope our personal contact can continue over the months and years ahead.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Carver, Jr.

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